

Commission of Ontario near the village of Des Joachims on the Ottawa River about 150 miles northwest of Ottawa -- some twenty miles from Chalk River. The NPD is not expected to generate electricity at a cost competitive with that produced by hydro electric or conventional thermal stations but will provide information and operating experience for a large scale plant and give practical information on the economics of power production from reactors of this type.

Only last week the Canadian authorities announced that they will build another experimental reactor at Chalk River. This is to be a swimming pool type of reactor of low power and low flux and is intended primarily for studies of the absorption of neutrons by various types of reactor fuels. At the same time the Canadian authorities said that additional test equipment will be incorporated in the NRU reactor and this will permit the testing of uranium fuels and fuel assemblies in the interior of the reactor under a variety of conditions. These two additions to the experimental equipment at Chalk River will greatly increase the effectiveness of test facilities for reactor development in Canada which, in some respects, are already unique.

Canada has developed a large radioactive isotope production programme and has pioneered in the use of radioactive Cobalt 60 in therapy units for the treatment of cancer. These therapy units have been placed in upwards of thirty hospitals in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Italy and Brazil. Last year Atomic Energy of Canada Limited made 1,200 shipments of various isotope products. We are certainly bent on making available whatever technical ability we have in this capacity to every country.

Based on the experience gained in Canada in advancing to the stage where we are now commencing the construction of a demonstration power reactor, my Government is convinced that the first requirement of countries newly entering the Atomic field is for their scientists to acquaint themselves with the basic technology on the subject. Canada is anxious to assist such countries in getting their atomic energy programmes under way and although we cannot offer such assistance on the same scale as our larger associates, the United States and the United Kingdom, we have already given, and intend to continue to give, every measure of help within the limitations of resources available for this purpose. When I spoke to the committee on the subject last year I said that Canada was prepared to exchange reports on atomic energy with foreign scientific research institutes and to furnish information on the structure and operation of research reactors and on the techniques of exploring for radioactive ores and their mining and milling operations. I said also that in the field of health, Canadian cancer and radiological research centres would welcome from other countries qualified radiologists and specialist physicians who wished to visit our clinics and study the application of radio isotopes to the problems of disease.

I also said last year that in addition to these measures my Government was considering possible additional measures which were within our capabilities and give promise of being useful. It is with great satisfaction that I can now cite as a practical example the recent joint announcement by the Governments of India and Canada that these two countries envisage a closer co-operation in the atomic field and we for our part in Canada are confident that such arrangement will operate to our mutual benefit as well as to that of other countries who will be involved indirectly. This is an example of the kind of project which we visualize could be developed on a much wider scale of course under the auspices of the proposed agency.